

AGENDA ITEM III C 2

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM OPTION

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

**B.S. IN HEALTH STUDIES - CLINICAL OPTION
IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2005, the Board of Regents granted conditional approval for a new Bachelor of Science in Health Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU), which included two options—Health Education and Healthcare Management. Initially, only the Health Education option was approved for implementation. Now the University seeks implementation authority for a new Clinical Studies option in Radiologic Technology. Initially, this program will only be available to students who have already completed a diploma or associate degree in basic radiologic technology.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description

The proposed option will offer trained individuals an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree while pursuing advanced clinical training in Computed Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), two advanced specialty areas in radiologic technology (RT) that are in great demand. The University will award thirty semester hours of block credit to incoming students for their previous clinical training. These individuals have been successful on the national examination for certification in RT, which validates prior learning. Students are then required to complete thirty-nine additional hours of advanced clinical practice in radiologic studies, plus standard general education and required related courses for a total of one hundred twenty-six SCH. Agreements with local healthcare providers for clinical preceptorships have been or will be established.

Depending upon employer demand, student interest and availability of resources, Southeastern indicates that it may consider seeking approval to offer additional advanced specialties as well as the basic baccalaureate program in RT. These expansions are not anticipated until three years after the implementation of the initial clinical option in RT.

2. Need

Baccalaureate programs in RT exist at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Northwestern State University in Natchitoches and at ULM in Monroe, none of which is proximate to the southeastern portion of the state. On the northshore, which experienced significant growth post-Katrina, numerous hospitals are expanding significantly to accommodate growing patient demand. These numerous new clinics and diagnostic facilities need radiologic personnel.

According to the proposal, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment of radiologic technologists and technicians is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2014 as existing trained personnel retire and with increased demand for radiologic diagnostic services as the population ages. Need for bachelor's trained personnel in RT is also expected to increase as new faculty credentials are required for RT training programs at all levels.

3. Students

Certificate- and associate-level RT programs in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Hammond should provide students eligible to enter the proposed option with credit for previous technical training. SLU reports that students from these programs inquire about the possibility of pursuing advanced clinical study in RT within the Health Studies baccalaureate program. The institution's projections are indicated below.

	YR 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5
Majors*	6 (0)	9 (0)	12 (25)	12 (35)	15 (50)
Graduates*	0 (0)	5** (0)	7 (0)	10 (18)	13 (25)

* Estimated additional numbers of majors/graduates with the addition of the basic RT program are shown in parentheses.

**Students entering with associate or higher degrees are expected to complete requirements and graduate within two years.

4. Faculty

Existing faculty at SLU will offer general education and science courses ; present faculty in Kinesiology and Health Studies will offer required related courses. Initially, a full time (FT) program director with a master's or higher degree in Radiologic Technology will be hired to oversee implementation and operation of the program, secure clinical preceptors for supervision of students in clinical settings and recruit students into the program. He/she will also teach several courses; adjunct/part-time(PT) faculty will teach other didactic courses.

Need for a clinical coordinator is anticipated for the second year of program implementation. Additional new faculty, FT and PT, will be required by the third year of the program, although the number will depend upon whether or not the University decides to offer the full baccalaureate program, necessitating provision of thirty hours of coursework for basic radiologic training.

5. Library

The Sims Memorial Library at SLU has extensive holdings to support implementation of the program. A portion of a recent budgetary increase has been allocated to expand listings related to radiologic technology. Additional funds have been allocated in the institution's 2008-09 budget to enhance library resources, which are interpreted as adequate for implementation of the RT Clinical Option.

6. Facilities & Equipment

Office and classroom space at SLU are sufficient to initiate the Clinical Option in Radiologic Technology. The program will be housed in the Kinesiology and Health Studies Building, which is scheduled for significant renovations and additions. Architects are currently completing construction documents so that bids for the project can be submitted in late spring 2008. The renovation/addition will house the Hammond component of Southeastern's nursing program as well as Radiologic Technology and additional aspects of the Clinical Option as it expands in future years.

Advanced clinical courses will be taught on-site at various health care facilities in the area. Formal arrangements are being established to this effect. While one-time start up equipment costs may be as much as \$100,000 if the basic RT program is added, the University indicates that local facilities have committed their assistance either through donation of equipment or funds to defray costs of acquisitions.

7. Administration

Faculty will report to the program director, who answers to the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The Dean in turn reports to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs. It is unlikely that the administrative structure at SLU will be impacted by implementation of the Clinical Option.

The University reports that it presently plans to request the establishment of a Department of Allied Health by Year Three of program implementation, which would necessitate naming of a new department head and administrative personnel. If the basic RT program is added, a part-time medical director would also be hired.

8. Accreditation

Accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) is mandatory for undergraduate RT programs. The curriculum, faculty number and credentials and equipment projections were developed in accordance with standards set forth by JRCERT to facilitate achievement of JRCERT accreditation by the program when it becomes eligible for assessment. JRCERT accreditation will initially require \$3,000 with an additional annual recurring expenditure of \$1,500.

9. Budget

The institution projects that new students will enroll in the program, thus generating additional tuition revenues. However, substantial additional operating funds will be required to cover anticipated new annual recurring costs of \$109,000 - 502,000. The University has committed to supporting the proposed Clinical Option through institutional re-allocations funds and indicates that several area healthcare providers will support the RT program through in-kind and cash donations.

	FIRST YEAR		SECOND YEAR		THIRD YEAR		FOURTH YEAR	
	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE
Faculty	*96,250	1.5	*194,875	2.75	403,793	5	426,520	5
GA's/Student Workers	*12,500	.5	* 12,500	.5	*12,500	.5	*12,500	.5
Support Personnel			*20,000	.5	*41,344	1	*43,411	1
SUB-TOTAL	*108,750	2	* 227,375	2.5	+* 457,637	6.5	+* 482,431	6.5
	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT	%
Facilities	10,000		5,000		100,000		10,000	
Equipment	3,500		1,000		20,000		1,000	
Travel	1,500		2,700		4,250		4,500	
Supplies	2,000		2,500		4,000		4,250	
Accreditation Costs					12,000		1,500	
SUB-TOTAL	17,000		11,200		140,250		21,250	
GRAND TOTAL	125,750		238,574		597,887		503,681	
Amount & Percentage of Total Anticipated From:	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE	AMOUNT	FTE
Tuition	20,400		30,600		** 40,800		** 40,800	
Tuition ***					*** 85,000		*** 119,000	
Private Grants/Contracts					50,000			
Operating Budget (Institutional Realloca)	105,350		207,974		** 507,087		** 462,881	
TOTAL	125,750		238,574		** 597,887		** 503,681	

* Includes fringe benefits at 25%

** Does not include amounts expected from increased enrollment if new programs are added.

+ Anticipated costs of adding new programs are included.

*** Indicates additional tuition anticipated by adding the basic program in radiologic technology.

STAFF SUMMARY

Specific evidence of need for and student interest in the program were not provided, although general demand for allied health programs and population growth on the Northshore are unquestioned. Support for the program's establishment was documented by letters from area hospitals and healthcare agencies, several of which are undergoing significant expansion. As the nature of the program necessitates liaisons with clinical facilities, a detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed with St. Tammany Parish Hospital, designating duties and responsibilities of all involved parties. It is likely that additional MoU with other facilities will be established. JCERT requirements dictate curriculum, faculty number/credentials, library holdings, equipment, etc., all of which appear to be present or anticipated. A thorough, but realistic, budget including all potential sources of revenue and likely expenditures was provided. Because a qualified director is integral to establishment of the program, the staff advocates conditional approval with implementation contingent upon hiring of a program director and subsequent progress reports.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant conditional approval for the Clinical Option in Radiologic Technology of the Bachelor of Science in Health Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University, subject to the following stipulations:

- 1. Upon receipt of documentation from the University indicating the engagement of an appropriately credentialed program director, the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs shall set a date for program implementation.***
- 2. By June 1, 2009, a report shall be due to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs providing:***
 - a. Documentation of hiring additional appropriately credentialed full-time faculty for AY 2009-10;***
 - b. Copies of agreements with all local providers of clinical sites to be used for training purposes;***
 - c. A list of necessary equipment with timeline for acquisition; and***
 - d. A timeline for achieving specialized accreditation from JCERT.***
- 3. Thereafter, on August 1, 2010, and annually on that date until JCERT accreditation has been achieved, the institution shall report on the number of enrollees, graduates and the placement of these graduates, along with evidence of timely progression toward JCERT accreditation.***